## Claims

**1.** A load securing device with which a flexible tie down is engaged to secure a load to an object, said load securing device comprising:

a first mandrel that is substantially rigid;

a second mandrel that is substantially rigid; and,

a linkage joining the the first and second mandels to one another.

**2.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein:

the first mandrel is arranged to engage with the tie down at a first position on the tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the first mandrel; and,

the second mandrel is arranged to engage with the tie down at a second position on the tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the second mandrel.

**3.** The load securing device of claim **2**, wherein the first position and the second position are separated by a length of the tie down that wraps at least partially around the load.

**4.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein:

the first mandrel comprises a first cylindrical member having opposing first and second ends; and,

the second mandrel comprises a second cylindrical member having opposing first and second ends.

**5.** The load securing device of claim **4**, wherein the linkage comprises:

a first flexible member that engages and joins together the first ends of the first and second cylindrical members; and,

a second flexible member that engages and joins together the second ends of the first and second cylindrical members.

**6.** The load securing device of claim **5**, wherein the first and second flexible members are lengths of chain.

**7.** The load securing device of claim **4**, further comprising:

a sleeve arranged around the first cylindrical member such that the sleeve can rotate with respect thereto.

**8.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein the first mandrel has opposing first and second ends that are engaged by the linkage such that the first mandrel can be rotated about an axis passing through the first and second ends of the first mandrel.

**9.** The load securing device of claim **8**, wherein the first mandrel further comprises:

ratcheting means that selectively limit a direction in which the first mandrel can be rotated about the axis.

**10.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein the linkage permits movement of the first and second mandrels relative to one another.

**11.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein the first mandrel comprises:

a pair of mated portions including a first portion and a second portion that can be selectively positioned ajoining one another and separated from one another.

**12.** The load securing device of claim **11**, wherein the first mandrel is arranged to engage with the tie down when the first and second portions are positioned ajoining one another such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the first mandrel and holds the first and second portions together.

**13.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein the linkage connects with the first mandrel such that the first mandrel is selectively secured thereto and removable therefrom.

**14.** The load securing device of claim **1**, wherein the first mandrel includes an outer surface arranged to engage with the tie down such that the tie down wraps at least partially around the surface.

**15.** The load securing device of claim **14**, wherein said outer surface has a trough formed therein.

**16.** The load securing device of claim **15**, wherein a width of the trough varies along its length.

**17.** A method of securing a load to an object, said method comprising:

(a) securing a first end of a line to the object;

(b) wrapping the line at least partially around a first substantially rigid mandrel at a first location on the line;

(c) wrapping a length of the line extending between the first location and a second location on the line at least partially around the load;

(d) wrapping the line at least partially around a second substantially rigid mandrel at the second location on the line, said second mandrel being connected to said first mandrel by a linkage;

(e) securing a second end of the line to the object; and,

(f) removing any slack from the line.

**18.** The method of claim **17**, wherein step (b) comprises:

threading the second end of the line around the first mandrel prior to step (e) such that the line is at least partially wrapped around the first mandrel at the first location.

**19.** The method of claim **18**, wherein step (d) comprises:

threading the second end of the line around the second mandrel prior to step (e) such that the line is at least partially wrapped around the second mandrel at the second location.

**20.** The method of claim **17**, wherein step (b) comprises:

forming a first loop in the line at the first location; and,

arranging the first mandrel inside the first loop.

**21.** The method of claim **20**, wherein step (d) comprises:

forming a second loop in the line at the second location; and,

arranging the second mandrel inside the second loop.

**22.** The method of claim **17**, wherein step (e) is performed prior to steps (b) and (d).